

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /127 W
----- 117481

R 051426 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2713

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PINT, IS, JO

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE IN JERUSALEM

HISTADRUT SECRETARY- GENERAL YITZHAK BEN- AHARON HAS RETURNED HIS INVITATION TO THE INDEPENDENCE DAY MILITARY PARADE, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI PRESS APRIL 4. PRESS QUOTED HISTADRUT LEADER AS EXPLAINING HE RECEIVED INVITATION MAINLY AS MEMBER OF KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE, AND THAT HE RETURNED INVITATION WITH THE TICKETS, IN SPITE OF FACT THAT AT ALL PREVIOUS TIMES HE WAS PRESENT AT IDF PARADES.

2. BEN- AHARON REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THIS YEAR' S PARADE IS OUT OF PLACE BECAUSE OF GREAT EXPENSE INVOLVED. ON 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE, HE SAID, ISRAEL SHOULD FIND A MORE APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION OF ITS " CONSTRUCTIVE ENTERPRISE." PAPER SAID BEN- AHARON TOLD REPORTER " THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE IDF HAS A REPUTATION THAT MAKES IT LOVED BY THE PEOPLE, AND THERE IS NO NEED TO BURDEN THE IDF WITH THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF THE PARADE."

3. BEN- AHARON SAID IN RADIO INTERVIEW LATER IN SAME DAY THAT IL 25 MILLION WHICH PARADE WILL COST COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SPENT.
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WHEN ASKED BY REPORTER WHY HE DID NOT EXPRESS HIS OPINION BEFORE GOVERNMENT' S DECISION WAS MADE, BEN- AHARON SAID HE WAS NOT IN ANY FORUM WHERE HIS OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT WAS SOUGHT. ASKED WHAT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE WAY TO CELEBRATE, HE SAID ISRAEL COULD FIND MANY WAYS, SUCH AS DANCING OR CELEBRATING SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT ACTING AS HISTADRUT LEADER BUT AS PRIVATE CITIZEN.

4. PRESS EDITORIALIZES APRIL 5 THAT GOI DECISION LAST SUMMER TO HOLD MILITARY PARADE IN JERUSALEM WAS NOT MET WITH ENTHUSIASM. NEWS LEAKED OUT THAT DAYAN WAS OPPOSED TO HOLDING PARADE BECAUSE HE FELT IDF ACHIEVEENTS MUST NOT BE MADE CENTER OF 25 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, AND THAT SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER HAZANI OPPOSED IT BECAUSE HE FELT MONEY COULD BE BETTER SPENT ON AID TO NEEDY. (AS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 2529, DAYAN CONFIRMED MARCH 30 THAT HE HAD VOTED AGAINST PARADE.) EDITORIAL SCORES BEN- AHARON FOR WACTANG UNTIL TICKETS SENT BEFORE COMING OUT AGAINST PARADE, CALLING HIS ACTION IMPULSIVE.

ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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